

Envoy in Lisbon fights back

Mr Frank Carlucci, United States ambassador in Lisbon, has protested to the Portuguese Foreign Ministry about the latest incident in a "well-oiled, well-directed smear campaign" linking him with the Central Intelligence Agency and a plan to overthrow Portugal's left-wing regime.

He sent a Note last night after studying a 1½-page article in Wednesday night's newspaper, Capital, naming him several times under the headline, "CIA acts in Portugal." It said that Mr Carlucci's name was "always at the forefront in increasing agitation, sabotage, and disruption of governments" and added that it "was useless for him to protest innocence as the facts were documented."

It supplied no documents but quoted an employee of CIA "cover" organisations in Por-

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tugal, a man from "an English-language dominated country" who left Portugal only a few days ago. The man was quoted as saying "the CIA acts in a big way in Portugal. At this moment its most important efforts are in your country."

Tonight, Mr Carlucci had a 40-minute talk with the Portuguese Prime Minister, Brigadier Vasco Goncalves. Earlier the Ministry of Information had said the article was irresponsible and unfounded speculation that could only harm relations

An official of the American Embassy said: "We are also writing a letter to the newspaper refuting the article. It will be the fourth such letter to various publications in three weeks. This article was pretty nasty especially the way it suggested it would make no difference whatever the ambassador said."

The journal accused the CIA between friendly countries.

of sponsoring the Portuguese Liberation Army which was denounced on Sunday by an army colonel as a reactionary force based in Spain plotting to overthrow the Lisbon regime. Later Ministry of Information officials stated there was no known link between the secret army and the CIA and last night the ministry condemned the article as "irresponsible speculation."

Although some believed the campaign against the ambassador is Communist-inspired, he is naming no one. He says only: "The people behind this campaign mount it because they know American policy is to help the present Portuguese Government and they do not want that."

The detailed article in Capital gave an account of CIA personalities visiting Lisbon last August, including its deputy director, Mr Vernon Walters. This visit did take place, but the embassy emphasises that

Mr Walters was here for only a couple of days during an extensive European trip. The newspaper also mentions Mr Irving Brown, who is known to left-wingers in the US as a "union buster."

Since his arrival here more than two months ago Mr Carlucci has been the target of a campaign in the media and people powerful in the Government. Shortly after the abortive counter-coup on March 11 the brigadier in charge of the military security force shocked the foreign diplomatic community by stating on television that Mr Carlucci should go home and that he was no longer able to guarantee his personal safety.

● The Council of the Revolution has withdrawn recognition as a political party from the MRPP, the country's Maoist movement, already excluded from next month's elections. The group had refused to change its hammer and sickle symbol to avoid confusion with the Portuguese Communist Party.